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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1660
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RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
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RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 3079
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 5419
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 0832
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 3619
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 6871
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 8360
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2752
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 4385
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 4276
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 000626

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [JA](#)

SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - DPRK DETENTION OF
AMERICAN JOURNALISTS, IRAQ, AND MIDDLE EAST PEACE

11. LEAD STORIES: Top stories on Friday morning included the compilation of a new set of pump-priming measures by the ruling coalition, including 300 billion yen in additional government spending for creating jobs.

12. "New Source of Dispute" On the detention of two Asian-American female journalists by DPRK authorities, a Seoul correspondent for the top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri wrote (3/20): "Given the recent deterioration in U.S.-DPRK relations over the latter's preparations for a ballistic missile launch, chances are high that the detention will turn into a bilateral dispute.... It remains uncertain whether North Korea will become cooperative in releasing the detainees swiftly. Prolonged negotiations are likely."

13. "Greater Self-Reliance Needed" On the 6th anniversary of the start of the Iraq war, the liberal Mainichi editorialized (3/20): "It is very pleasing to know that the environment has been gradually set for people in Iraq to finally overcome post-war confusion and enjoy peace.... Less reliance on the U.S. sooner than later is imperative for Prime Minister Maliki. In order to achieve that goal, the Iraqi government must do its utmost. At the same time, it is important for the international community to assist Iraq in becoming self-reliant."

14. "Step toward Middle East Peace Dialogue" The liberal Tokyo Shimbun asserted in an editorial (3/20): "President Obama has expressed strong interest in expanding the scope of Middle East peace talks by calling for enhanced dialogue with the people in the Islamic world. His planned trip to Turkey next month

can be taken as a part of U.S. overtures toward the
Islamic world."

ZUMWALT